



THE NEW DRUG ABUSE WARNING NETWORK (DAWN)

Fact Sheet #1

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WHAT

DAWN is a public health surveillance system that collects data on drug related visits to hospital EDs and on drug-related deaths reported by medical examiners and coroners (ME/Cs). Since 2003, DAWN has been tracking *all* types of drug-related ED visits and deaths. In addition to illegal drug use, DAWN collects cases related to **adverse reactions** to OTC and prescription medications, **overmedication**, **accidental ingestions**, **malicious poisonings**, **suicide attempts**, and **underage alcohol use**.

WHERE

Data collection is currently conducted in hospitals across the entire U.S. with concentrations in 22 metropolitan areas; and ME/C jurisdictions are located in the same metropolitan areas and in selected States.

WHO

Hospitals are selected by sampling. Eligible hospitals are non-federal, acute care facilities with 24-hour emergency departments. Hospitals represent themselves and others like them in their metropolitan area and the Nation. ME/C offices are not sampled; they are chosen based on their metropolitan area and State.

WHY

Community health. New DAWN targets potential public health problems in the metropolitan area, such as, *underage drinking among youth, adverse reactions to medications in the elderly, accidental poisonings among young children, misuse of prescription drugs by all ages*. Public health agencies and organizations can use DAWN to focus their prevention and treatment policies and programs.

Patient care and safety. As a DAWN member, hospital EDs and ME/Cs have access to their own data through DAWN *LIVE!*— a secure Internet-based query system. Members can use their data to track the patterns of drug-related cases reported by their ED or ME/C, the drugs involved, and the characteristics of the people affected.

Management. Hospital managers can use their DAWN data to help allocate resources and staffing to respond to changing caseloads.

HOW

DAWN collects data on all drug-related visits to hospital EDs and all deaths in which drugs were a causal or contributing factor. Data include information on the type of case, detailed information on the drugs involved, and characteristics of the patients or decedents. No patients or family members are interviewed.

For more information. DAWN information is available in publications and online at the DAWN website at **<http://DAWNinfo.samhsa.gov>**. To learn more about joining the New DAWN, contact the Facility Relations staff at **800-FYI-DAWN** and the Website.